

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06528 041005Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 OMB-01 STR-04 EPG-02

AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 EB-07 /107 W

-----041047Z 123761 /13

P 040907Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7467

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, RH, JA

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 098459

1. EMBOFF APRIL 4 MADE POINTS REGARDING RHODESIAN SANCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL TO HIDEKI HARASHIMA, DIRECTOR OF FONOFF AFRICA DIVISION, AND LEFT TALKING PAPER. HARASHIMA, STRESSING THAT HE WOULD, AFTER INTRA-GOJ CONSULTATIONS, WANT TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER, OFFERED "PRELIMINARY COMMENTS." GOJ APPLAUDED U.S. REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT. IT REGARDED EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS AS CRITICAL TO EARLY AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM, AND WAS PREPARED TO WORK FOR FURTHER TIGHTENING OF SANCTIONS IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH U.S. AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED STATES.

2. HOWEVER, HARASHIMA EMPHASIZED, WASHINGTON'S DECISION TO IMPOSE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES RETRO-actively IS NOT UNDERSTOOD HERE. UNLESS SUITABLE
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06528 041005Z

TRANSITION PERIOD ALLOWED, PROSPECT IS THAT JAPANESE CARGOES OF SPECIALTY STEEL WOULD PILE UP IN U.S. PORTS WHILE SHIPPERS SCRAMBLED TO MEET CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT RESENTMENT AGAINST WHAT MUST BE PERCEIVED IN JAPAN AND EUROPE AS ILL-CONSIDERED U.S. PROCEDURES RAN REAL RISK OF BLIGHTING WHAT OUGHT TO BE SMOOTH, COOPERATIVE

EXERCISE AIMED AT INCREASING PRESSURE ON SMITH REGIME.

3. COPY OF TALKING PAPER WAS ALSO DELIVERED TO AMERICAS-OCEANIA DIVISION OF MITI'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUREAU. OFFICIALS THERE NOTED MARCH 18 CUT-OFF DATE WITH SURPRISE, BUT SAID THAT THEY HAD NO COMMENT TO MAKE UNTIL THEY GIVE THE PROBLEM FURTHER STUDY.

4. COMMENT. UNLESS CERTIFICATION PROBLEM MANAGED WITH FINESSE AND FLEXIBILITY, EMBASSY THINKS IT LIKELY THAT MANY HERE WILL PERCEIVE U.S. MOVE AIMED MORE AT DELIVERING BLOW TO JAPANESE SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY THAN AT SOLVING RHODESIA PROBLEM SO FAR PROBLEM HAS NOT SURFACED IN MEDIA, WHICH IS GOOD EVIDENCE THAT GOJ IS STILL MAKING UP MIND HOW TO RESPOND. HARASHIMA THOUGHT STORM MIGHT BREAK IN ONE TO TWO WEEKS, AND URGED EARLY CONSULTATIONS. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, SANCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO06528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0313
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770592/aaaadbyr.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b63b8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 98459
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2637492
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, RH, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b63b8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009